



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

Journal of Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

10:00 AM

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

Issued On: 1/30/2025

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore,
Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)
Absent: Morita and Morrison (2) Excused

CONSENT CALENDAR

[25-0066](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MICHAEL DESANTIAGO TO THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, in November 2014, Michael DeSantiago (Mike) was appointed by President Preckwinkle and the Board of Commissioners to the Conservation and Policy Council of the Forest Preserves of Cook County to help guide the implementation of its Next Century Conservation Plan (NCCP), an ambitious vision to protect and care for nature in the 21st century, benefiting all citizens of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, he served on the Council from 2014-2024 and throughout that time generously shared his wisdom and expertise in business management and sustainable design, helping the Forest Preserves implement the NCCP effectively and thoughtfully; and

WHEREAS, Mike co-chaired the development of the Council's position paper on "Nature-Compatible Recreation," which included key recommendations to prioritize nature-compatible recreation and to oppose new uses that do not align with the Forest Preserves' mission; and

WHEREAS, in developing the position paper, Mike created an evaluation tool to help Forest Preserves staff conduct rigorous evaluations of existing and proposed facilities to ensure mission alignment and to assess ecological impact, community impact, and economic impact; and

WHEREAS, the tool, known as the DeSantiago Quantitative Analysis Tool, was utilized to conduct a preliminary analysis of District golf courses and aquatic centers and was incorporated into the position paper to guide future evaluation of District recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Mike’s lifelong interest in conservation and sustainability made him an effective ambassador for the Forest Preserves, and by working closely with the Board of Commissioners, civic leaders, conservation advocates, and staff, he helped grow the public’s understanding and appreciation of these public lands, contributing to building a robust community of support that led to the successful passage of the 2022 referendum; and

WHEREAS, he has been a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, spending time hiking and biking with his friends and family, running through the Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, and immersing himself in the exploration of Forest Preserves throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, Mike’s vast curiosity about the natural world and his genuine enthusiasm for the Forest Preserves was contagious and helped everyone feel welcome whether in the Preserves or in a meeting room; and

WHEREAS, his kind, courteous and patient approach to discussing challenging topics and finding solutions made him a deeply valued colleague on the Council and among Forest Preserves staff; and

WHEREAS, Mike has been a dedicated supporter of the Forest Preserves, advocating for the protection and conservation of our public lands and ensuring that the people of Cook County have access to and can experience the benefits of nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, Interim General Superintendent Eileen Figel, and on behalf of all residents of Cook County, do hereby extend appreciation to Michael DeSantiago for his dedication, contribution, leadership, and outstanding service to the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Michael DeSantiago in recognition of his significant contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trevor, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to approve 25-0066. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

PRESIDENT

[25-0072](#)

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SWEET WOODS

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 10, Township 35 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Sweet 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:

Part of 360 E. Glenwood Dyer Road, Glenwood, Illinois

EXCEPTING THAT PART NORTH OF DEER CREEK; THAT PART LYING SOUTH OF THE CENTER LINE OF GLENWOOD DYER ROAD, IN THE EAST ½ OF THE WEST ½ OF THE NORTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Part of PIN: 32-10-200-006-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 849,420 SQUARE FEET, OR 19.50 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

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 25-0072 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0073](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): Walter Shults and Jo Ann Shults (Owners of Record)

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

Description of Real Estate: Part of 360 E. Glenwood Dyer Road, Glenwood, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): Part of PIN: 32-10-200-006-0000

EXCEPTING THAT PART NORTH OF DEER CREEK; THAT PART LYING SOUTH OF THE CENTER LINE OF GLENWOOD DYER ROAD, IN THE EAST ½ OF THE WEST ½ OF THE NORTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 849,420 SQUARE FEET, OR 19.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$835,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$845,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and ARPA Fund 51032.560010

District(s): 5

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified a parcel of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Sweet Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as Part of 360 E. Glenwood Dyer Road, Glenwood, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 19.50 ± acres. The Property has natural and fallowed land and contains a part of Deer Creek.

Through negotiations, the Owners of Record (the “Sellers”), have agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$835,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$845,000.00 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, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 25-0073 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0083](#)

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

PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT

AMENDING RESOLUTION 25-0002 - APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE, CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that, effective upon passage, the following Commissioners are designated and appointed as President Pro Tempore, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and Subcommittees of the Board.

Section 1. The President Pro Tempore of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall be Commissioner Daley.

Section 2. The Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the committees and of the subcommittees of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall be as follows:

AUDIT (7 members)

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: S. Morrison

Members: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Lowry, Miller

BOTANIC GARDEN (9 members)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Morita

Members: Anaya, Daley, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (9)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: Trevor

Members: Anaya, Britton, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Stamps

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE (9 members)

Chair: Miller

Vice-Chair: Quezada

Members: Anaya, Degnen, Lowry, Moore, K. Morrison, Scott, Stamps

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (7 members)

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: Morita

Members: Britton, Miller, K. Morrison, Quezada, Trevor

FINANCE (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: Anaya

Vice-Chair: K. Morrison

Members: All Board Members

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LITIGATION (7 members)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Lowry

Members: Degnen, Morita, S. Morrison, Trevor, Stamps

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION (5 members)

Chair: S. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Trevor

Members: McCaskill, Morita, Quezada

LABOR (9 members)

Chair: Anaya

Vice Chair: Quezada

Members: Aguilar, Degnen, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Stamps

LAW ENFORCEMENT (9 members)

Chair: Moore

Vice-Chair: Aguilar

Members: Britton, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL

RELATIONS (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: Britton

Vice-Chair: Degnen

Members: All Board Members

PENSION (7 members)

Chair: Gainer

Vice-Chair: Anaya

Members: Daley, Miller, K. Morrison, Trevor, Stamps

REAL ESTATE (Committee of the Whole)

Chair: Anaya

Vice-Chair: Moore

Members: All Board Members

RECREATION AND ENGAGEMENT (7 members)

Chair: S. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Stamps

Members: Aguilar, Anaya, Miller, K. Morrison, Quezada

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (9 members)

Chair: Lowry

Vice-Chair: Degnen

Members: Anaya, Britton, Daley, Miller, Morita, S. Morrison, Scott

ZOOLOGICAL (9 members)

Chair: K. Morrison

Vice-Chair: Moore

Members: Aguilar, Daley, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison, Quezada, Scott, ~~Trevor~~

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0083. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0001](#)

Presented by: TONI PRECKWINKLE, President, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Commissioner Tara S. Stamps

Position: Member of the Board

Department/Board/Commission: NeighborSpace Board of Directors

Effective date: Immediate

Expiration date: 6/30/2025

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) requests approval of the appointment of Commissioner Tara S. Stamps to the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace, an affiliate partner of the Forest Preserves.

In 1997, the Forest Preserves entered into an agreement with the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District to form NeighborSpace, a nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. NeighborSpace owns and manages property so that community groups can focus on gardening and their community-building vision. NeighborSpace-protected gardens give community members an opportunity to get their hands in the earth and enjoy nature right in their own neighborhoods.

A Forest Preserves Commissioner, the General Superintendent, and an additional Forest Preserves staff member sit on the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace along with representatives of the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of 25-0001. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 25-0001. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[25-0069](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED GRANT AWARD

Department: Department of Facilities and Fleet

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

Grantor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

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

Purpose: Authorization is sought for the Forest Preserves of Cook County to accept grant and enter into an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles grant funding to support the purchase of four (4) zero-emission waste haulers.

Grant Amount: \$1,040,000.00

Grant Period: 1/1/2025 (retroactive) - 12/31/2026

Fiscal Impact: Not to Exceed \$1,400,000.00 in direct match (FY 2025 \$1,400,000.00)

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266 and 51010.560266

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has been awarded a Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles grant from the US EPA that will support the purchase of four Zero-Emission (ZE) waste haulers allowing the Forest Preserves to replace four (4) non-ZE Class 7 heavy-duty vehicles. The four (4) aging non-ZE waste haulers are among the Forest Preserves' most polluting vehicles and in 2023 averaged only 3.8 Miles Per Gallon while emitting 112.6 CO2 metric tons equivalent of emissions. Each of the four (4) waste haulers travels annually approximately 2,000 miles, collecting a total of 596 tons of refuse and 118 tons of recycling. Replacing these four (4) fuel-inefficient vehicles with ZE waste haulers will dramatically reduce the Forest Preserves' carbon emissions by 112.6 CO2 metric tons annually, reduce maintenance and fuel costs, and advance the Forest Preserves' Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan (2018) with a goal to reach net zero by 2050. The project will also advance the US EPA's Climate Strategic Plan Framework (2022-2026) Goal 1 to Tackle the Climate Crisis and Goal 4 to Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities. The next step in purchasing the new vehicles will be to bring the ZE garbage truck quotes and contract to the Vehicle Steering Committee for their approval. Upon Vehicle Steering Committee approval, the contract to purchase the vehicles will be brought to the Board for review and approval. The US EPA will provide a total of \$1,040,000.00 in grant funds for the purchase, and the Forest Preserves will provide up to \$1,160,000.00 in matching funds per the agreement. However, the Forest Preserves is

requesting \$240,000.00 in additional funds for contingency for a total project cost not to exceed \$2,440,000.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0069. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0079](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”), as Licensor to amend a License to Streamwood Park District, Grantee, to locate, operate and maintain water main at a different location a few hundred feet to the south on the same parcel that was previously approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on February 7, 2023 (Board Item No. 23-0016). There are no other proposed changes to the existing License #1800 besides the change in the location of the water main.

Term: Ten (10) years (no change from original term)

License Fee: N/A

License Application Fee: N/A

License Review Fee: N/A

YELAR Fee: N/A

Total one-time upfront fee of N/A for the term of the License
(Sec. 5-2A-4 and 5-2B-4)

Tree Mitigation Fee: N/A

The area of the License is: 0.0114 acre(s)

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

Grantee will be required to meet the insurance requirements under the amended License Agreement.

The Forest Preserves staff have reviewed the amended plans and have found them to be acceptable; therefore, it is recommended that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of this amended license.

District(s): 15

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 25-0079 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0020](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Various vendors expanding a pre-qualified vendor pool for tree planting services, listed below:

Contract No.	Vendor Name
74000015427	Semper Fi Landscaping, Inc., Yorkville, Illinois
74000015430	Gale Construction Company of Illinois, Joliet, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Districtwide tree planting services

Contract Value: Not to exceed a combined total of \$1,000,000.00 per calendar year (or \$4,000,000.00 through 2028, which does not include \$2,000,000.00 allocated as part of prior Board Item No. 22-0356) in conjunction with contract number #74000011240 issued under RFP #22-31-104R, and all contract numbers listed above. Beginning in 2029, an additional \$1,100,000.00 will be made available for the final two (2) option years, if needed, bringing the maximum authority of tree planting services to \$7,100,000.00 between 2023-2031.

Contract Period: 3/1/2025 - 2/28/2027, with two (2) optional two-year renewals to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$1,000,000.00, FY 2026 \$1,000,000.00, FY 2027 \$1,000,000.00

(optional), FY 2028 \$1,000,000.00 (optional), FY 2029 \$550,000.00 (optional), FY 2030 \$525,000.00 (optional), FY 2031 \$25,000.00 (optional)

Accounts: Professional Services 51034.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521444 and 51010.520840; Recreation Supplies 51001.530230; Institutional Supplies 51001.530252; Consulting and Management Services 51001.520850; Campground Supplies 51001.530262; Special Events 51001.520635; Material and Supplies 51001.530267; Site Amenities 51009.560060 and 51031.560060; and all future Professional Services and Site Amenities accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000015427 and #74000015430 issued under RFP #24-31-114

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

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprise goals for these contracts were set to zero. The selected vendors are certified Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: On October 18, 2022, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners approved an item establishing a pre-qualified contractor pool for comprehensive tree planting services throughout the Forest Preserves (Board Item No. 22-0356) through 2028, including optional renewals. A second Request for Proposals (“RFP”) #24-31-114 was posted which both expands the number of vendors who can participate in the pool, as well as extends contractual coverage for tree planting services for an additional two (2) years into early 2031. Allowing additional vendors to enter the pool will subsequently increase work capacity, provide additional geographic flexibility, and improve maintenance of newly planted trees. Task orders will be issued to pre-qualified firms on an as-needed basis, with projects awarded based on price, work plan, and availability.

The originally approved vendor, Atrium, Inc., was authorized for an aggregate amount not to exceed \$6,000,000.00. Two million dollars is being excluded for the purposes of calculating the fiscal impact of this item to account for the two-years already elapsed (2023-2024) under the original contract. To accommodate these two (2) additional vendors under the existing authority limit set for the vendor pool, the funds approved for use will be capped internally at an amount not to exceed \$450,000.00 annually to Atrium, Inc., \$450,000.00 annually to Semper Fi Landscaping, and \$100,000.00 annually to Gale Construction for the remainder of the initial contract period. After expiration of the original contract with Atrium, Inc. in 2028, authority for Semper Fi Landscaping and Gale Construction (contracts #74000015427 and #74000015430) will remain unchanged through the end of the contract term at an amount not to exceed \$550,000.00 per year, distributed amongst each vendor as described above. \$1,100,000.00 in additional authority is being requested in order to accommodate these two (2) remaining option years, should they be desired.

Two (2) firms submitted proposals in response to the RFP. A selection committee reviewed the proposals and both vendors were selected based on their qualifications to perform services under this contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0020. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0080](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Hey and Associates, Inc., Volo, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Professional civil engineering services for unpaved trail repairs and improvements at various locations across the Forest Preserves

Original Contract Period: 1/26/2021 - 1/25/2024, Administrative Extension (1/26/2024 - 1/25/2025)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 1/26/2025 (retroactive) - 12/25/2025

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$288,750.00

Original Approval: 1/26/2021, \$275,000.00

Previous Increase(s): 1/26/2024, \$13,750.00 Administrative Increase

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact: N/A

Accounts: N/A

Contract Number(s): #74000008708 issued request for proposal #21-80-03

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

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

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Additional time is needed for engineering services relating to oversight of unpaved trail improvements that are currently in process on the unpaved Thorn Creek Trail system. Construction has been delayed due to the discovery of missing entitlements and the need to obtain permission from ComEd and IDOT to cross their property.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 25-0080. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0017](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: FPCC - ARPA General Headquarters Remodel Report

Report Period: January 30, 2024, through August 2, 2024

Summary: This audit was designed to determine if the program was in compliance with the Financial and Monitoring provisions of the beneficiary agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to refer 25-0017 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0018](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: ARPA - FPCC New Restroom Beaubien Woods Audit Report

Report Period: January 30, 2024, through August 16, 2024

Summary: This audit was designed to determine if the program was in compliance with the Financial and Monitoring provisions of the beneficiary agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to refer 25-0018 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0068](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: OCA - FPCC FY24 4th Quarter Open Recommendations

Report Period: December 2024

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to refer 25-0068 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0021](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

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

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of December 2024. 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 Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0078](#)

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - December 2024

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

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of December 2024. Payments total \$91,969.07 for December 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0078. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0067](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 2/4/2025 - 3/10/2025

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

Wednesday, 2/5; 6pm - 7:30pm

Thankful for the Dark, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join us and learn why light pollution is harmful to people and wildlife while hiking in the largest Urban Night Sky Place. *Registration required. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

Friday, 2/7; 6pm - 8:30pm

Valentine's Day Candlelight Walks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Families, friends, and couples are welcomed to celebrate love in its many forms with a candlelit walk and light refreshments. *Registration required. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Friday, 2/7; 6:30pm

Winter Fire Building Workshop, Camp Dan Beard, Northbrook

Join us and learn fire building skills indoors and try out your new talent outdoors. *Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-17 with an adult. For more information, please visit the website.*

Friday, 2/7; 7pm**Winter Paint Night, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

This program will teach you how to create an acrylic winter scene. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

Saturday, 2/8; 9am - 12pm**Winterpalooza, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Join us for an afternoon of winter activities including hikes, broom hockey, orienteering and more. *This event is presented with Portage Creek Cub Scouts. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/8; 10am - 2pm**Conservation at Home, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago**

Plant lovers unite! Join us for a native plant presentation followed by seed and plant sharing. *Participants should bring a mug because a warm beverage will be provided. For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/8; 1:30pm**Owls of Trailside, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Join us and learn about the fascinating owls that call Trailside Museum home and meet an ambassador owl. *Registration required. This event is a family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 2/8; 5:30pm - 9pm**Sweetheart Night Hike, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Enjoy a wonderful day by hiking the candlelit trails, relaxing around a campfire, or warming up inside with dinner and drinks. *Registration required by February 1st. Ages 21 and up. The cost is \$30 per person. All ticket purchases are final, and we cannot give refunds. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Sunday, 2/9; 1pm**Winter 'Brr'ding, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Enjoy an indoor presentation to learn about our winter and irruptive bird species. *Registration required. Ages 16 and up. Please call (630) 257-2045.*

Sunday, 2/9; 1:30pm**Superb Owl Party, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Let's celebrate owls! Join us and learn what makes them so unique. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

Thursday, 2/13; 7pm

Spark in the Dark, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for an evening adult program and stroll our candlelit trail. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

Friday, 2/14; 6pm - 8:30pm

Valentine's Day Candlelight Walks, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Families, friends, and couples are welcomed to celebrate love in its many forms with a candlelit walk and light refreshments. *Registration required. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 2/15; 9am - 1pm

BIPOC Faces in Green Space, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Join us for an outdoor wellness and journaling session and shift your focus away from the daily hassles. *For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/15; 10:30am - 12pm

Winter Pop-Up Fun, Swallow Cliff Woods-North, Palos Park

Drop in and check out a pair of our snowshoes, help with litter pickup, warm up by a fire, and play in the snow! *The snowshoes will be available based on weather conditions. For more information, please call (312) 533-5751.*

Saturday, 2/15; 12pm - 2pm

Build a Birdhouse, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us and make a wooden birdhouse for your yard. *Registration required. Ages 14 and up. Ages 14-17 with an adult. Supplies are limited. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 2/15; 1pm

Winter Science , Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for indoor interactive activities to explore the winter weather. *Ages 7 and up. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

Sunday, 2/16 through Saturday, 2/22; 9am

Birkie Week, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us for fun activities during Birkie Week! You can ski with wood skis and wool knickers to win a prize or test your knowledge of the Birkebeiner Ski Race by answering a daily trivia question. *This program will occur if we are open for skiing due to weather conditions and snow depth. For more information, please call (630) 257-2045 or visit the website.*

Sunday, 2/16; 1:30pm

Insects in Winter, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Enjoy a hunt on our trails for the mighty snow flea and learn about other winter insects. *For more information, please call (847) 824-8360.*

Friday, 2/21; 11am - 2pm

Crafternoon: Paint and Sip Hot Chocolate, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Join us for a paint and sip class while enjoying a nice cup of hot chocolate. *Supplies will be provided. For more information, please call (224)763-4317.*

Saturday, 2/22; 10am - 11:30am

Walk and Talk: Black History Month Celebration, LaBagh Woods, Chicago

Join us and learn about the importance of Black environmentalists. You will also learn about the history of the Forest Preserves' trails as it relates to the Underground Railroad Movement. *Registration required. This event will begin at Grove 1. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/22 through Sunday, 2/23; 10am - 3pm

Underground Railroad Presentations, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

This program will teach you about the Underground Railroad route connected to the Calumet Region during the mid-1800s through presentations and guided walks. *For more information, please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 2/22 through Sunday, 2/23; 10:30am

Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for a walk in the sugar maple forest and learn about the sweet process of making maple syrup. *Registration required Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 2/22; 11am - 2pm

Local Hidden Figures, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

In honor of Black History Month, join us for an afternoon of stories from our local hidden figures. *For more information, please call (224)763-4317 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/22; 10am - 11:30am

Winter Workshop: Printmaking, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago

Calling all creatives! Join us for our themed sessions as we explore printmaking. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/22; 1pm

Winter Walk in the Woods, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Enjoy an afternoon walk in the Preserves. *Snowshoes are provided when snow depth is greater than 4 inches. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 2/22 through Sunday, 2/23; 1:30pm

Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for a walk in the sugar maple forest and learn about the sweet process of making maple syrup. *Registration required Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Sunday, 2/23; 1:30pm

Go Native and Get Wild, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Get your gardening questions ready! You can learn about the many benefits of gardening with native plants for you and the environment. *Registration required. This event is presented with Conservation at Home via Zoom. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 2/22; 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Black History Month Collaboration Hike, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Celebrate this special month with us by joining a bird hike followed with a snack by a warm fire. *Registration required. This event is presented with Outdoor Afros. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

Thursday, 2/25; 6pm

Night Owl, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Come walk the trails during a new moon as we look and listen for owls at night. *Registration required. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

Saturday, 3/1; 10:30am - 11:30am

Women's History Month Hike, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Celebrate this special month by taking a guided hike and learning about how women have shaped environmental conservation. *Registration required. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

Saturday, 3/1 through Sunday, 3/2; 10:30am

Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for a walk in the sugar maple forest and learn about the sweet process of making maple syrup. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 3/1 through Sunday, 3/2; 1:30pm

Sap's Rising, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Join us for a walk in the sugar maple forest and learn about the sweet process of making maple syrup. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Sunday, 3/2; 1pm

Lion or Lamb Walk, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Will March weather be like a lion or a lamb? Take a walk and explore the possibilities of this in-between season. *Registration required. This is a family program Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Wednesday, 3/5; 10am**Wee Wandering Wednesdays, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

This is a special program for little naturalists. The activities will include story time, arts and craft as well as playtime adventure. *Ages 3-6 with an adult. Tickets will be given on a first come, first served basis starting at 9:30 am. Please call (847) 381-6592.*

Friday, 3/7; 6pm - 8pm**Evening Walk and Night Sky Observation, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for an evening walk with telescope views of the night sky leading up to the following week's total lunar eclipse. *Registration required. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 3/8; 9am**Women's Heritage Month Walk, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

In celebration of Women's Heritage Month, we will learn about conservation leader Isabel Bassett Wasson. Join us for a walk and learn about her work and discoveries at Thatcher Woods. *For more information, please call (312) 533-5751 or visit the website.*

Saturday, 3/8; 9am - 1pm**Essential Backpacking Skills, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs**

Professional instructors will teach you how to make a comfortable home for yourself in the wild. *This event is presented by REI. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 3/8; 10am**Walk and Talk: Women in Conservation, LaBagh Woods, Chicago**

Join us and learn about women in conservation and their work within the Forest Preserves and natural areas. *This event will begin at Grove 1. Registration required. Please call (773) 758-8899.*

Saturday, 3/8; 10am**Maple Tree Tapping, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Join us on a hike as we discuss the history of tapping. You can taste fresh sap and finish syrup after tapping a maple tree. *Registration required. This is a family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

Saturday, 3/8; 10am - 12pm**Nature Illustration Workshop, Swallow Cliff Woods-North, Palos Park**

This class will have you capture the wonders of nature through guided nature illustrations. *Registration required. Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-17 with an adult. This class is for all levels and supplies will be provided. Please call (312) 533-5751.*

Saturday, 3/8; 1:30pm**Empowerment Doll Workshop, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Teaching artist, Victoria Reeves, will teach you how to hand sew in this empowerment doll making class.

Registration required. Participants are encouraged to bring their child or grandchild to co-create and connect. Please call (847) 381-6592.

Saturday, 3/8; 2pm

Walk and Talk: Women in Conservation, LaBagh Woods, Chicago

Join us and learn about women in conservation and their work within the Forest Preserves and natural areas. *Registration required. This event will begin at Grove 1. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 3/8; 2pm

Maple Tree Tapping, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Join us on a hike as we discuss the history of tapping. You can taste fresh sap and finish syrup after tapping a maple tree. *Registration required. This is a family program. Please call (708) 366-6530.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to receive and filed 25-0067. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

[25-0016](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Alaka Wali

Position: Member

Department/Board/Commission: Conservation and Policy Council

Effective Date: Immediate

Expiration Date: 12/31/2027

Alaka Wali is curator emerita of North American Anthropology in the Science and Education Division of

the Field Museum. Alaka was born in India and came to the United States as a child. Curious about issues of cultural identity, she studied anthropology at Harvard and Columbia, focusing on the challenges facing Indigenous peoples and their efforts to maintain cultural practices and worldviews.

She was the founding director of the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change at The Field Museum from 1995- 2010. During that time, she pioneered the development of participatory social science research and community engagement processes based in museum science. She curated the North American collection, one of the Museum's largest regional anthropology holdings. Since 2000, she has worked closely with ecologists and museum educators to develop innovative community engagement strategies for people living in and around biodiverse regions of the Western Amazon and urban Chicago to expand inclusion of their voices in environmental conservation efforts.

Her research focuses on the relationship between art and the capacity for social resilience. She has authored several books, and published monographs and more than 50 articles on a wide range of topics, including museum practice, political ecology, racialized health disparities and urban anthropology. She has curated numerous exhibitions, pioneering co-curated exhibitions with Native American contemporary artists. She led the curation of the exhibition-Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories which opened in May 2022 and broke new ground for the Field Museum with a deeply collaborative approach that privileges the perspectives of Native American scholars, artists and community members. A companion edited volume became available in 2024 from BAR Publishing.

From 2016-2024, Alaka served on the Board of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation which focuses on land conservation and artistic vitality in Chicago and the Low Country of South Carolina. She has also served on other Chicago region Boards including the Chicago Cultural Alliance and the Latin School of Chicago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 25-0016. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0003](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED REAPPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Jacqui Ulrich, Director, Department of Conservation & Experiential Programming

Position: Member of the Board

Department/Board/Commission: NeighborSpace Board of Directors

Effective Date: 1/15/2025

Expiration Date: Two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2026

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) requests approval of the reappointment of Jacqui Ulrich, Director of the Conservation and Experiential Programming Department (“CEP”) to the Board of Directors of NeighborSpace, an affiliate partner of the Forest Preserves.

NeighborSpace is a nonprofit urban land trust in Chicago that preserves and sustains gardens on behalf of dedicated community groups. NeighborSpace owns and manages property so that community groups can focus on gardening. NeighborSpace-protected gardens give young and old alike an opportunity to get their hands in the earth and enjoy nature, right in their own neighborhoods.

CEP connects diverse audiences to nature through a wide range of educational and outdoor recreation experiences and is also responsible for community engagement and committed to developing relationships with citizens to energize them and connect them to nature. CEP works with program partners at the local level on programming, building relationships with groups to become long-term advocates, stewards and ambassadors of the Forest Preserves.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Park District worked together to establish NeighborSpace as a non-profit in 1997. These three (3) governmental agencies continue to provide leadership and financial support to protect community-managed open spaces in Chicago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to approve 25-0003. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[25-0076](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 2/4/2025

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:	\$0.00
Proposed Settlements to Be Approved:	\$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2025 to Present:	\$49,399.25
Legal Fees for 2/4/2025 to Be Approved:	\$31,448.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 25-0076. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0077](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 2/4/2025

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2025 to present:	\$21,983.69
Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved:	\$27,276.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 25-0077. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0022](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

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

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for December 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to receive and filed 25-0022. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0012](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Refer to Finance Committee

Report Title: American Rescue Plan Act Sub-Award Annual Report

Report Period: 7/26/2022 - 10/31/2024

Summary: This report serves as an annual update on the Forest Preserves of Cook County's (the "Forest Preserves") American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") sub-award funds pursuant to Board Resolution No. 22-0289. This report covers the period of July 26, 2022 through October 31, 2024 and includes Forest Preserves' expenditures and activities for ARPA projects. ARPA funds seek to address the negative health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on communities nationwide. The Forest Preserves remained open throughout the pandemic and saw firsthand how important nature is to the residents of Cook County, with visitor numbers jumping from an estimated 62 million visits per year to

100 million during this time. ARPA funds support the Forest Preserves mission in providing access to nature for all residents of Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to receive and filed 25-0012. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

[25-0007](#)

Sponsored by: TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, MICHAEL SCOTT JR. and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR MICHAEL J. O'MALLEY PRESERVE

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 30, Township 35, Range 15, all in Cook County, Illinois near Michael J. O'Malley Preserve in District 6.

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.

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 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:

2730 Sauk Trail, Unincorporated Cook County, Illinois (AKA 2801 E. Sauk Trail, Sauk Village, IL)

THE EAST ONE-HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (E ½ NW ¼) OF SECTION THIRTY (30), TOWNSHIP THIRTY-FIVE (35), RANGE FIFTEEN (15), IN BLOOM TOWNSHIP, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 33-30-101-001-0000

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 3,222,133 SQUARE FEET, OR 73.97 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 6

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve 25-0007. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

[25-0006](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

WETLAND MITIGATION BANK AGREEMENT AND PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF REAL ESTATE DONATION

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: HGS, LLC D/B/A RES Environmental Operating Company, LLC, Bellaire, Texas

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Agreement for HGS, LLC to develop, manage and maintain a wetland mitigation bank on Forest Preserves property in unincorporated Cook County near Sauk Village, and authorization for the Forest Preserves to accept donated property from HGS, LLC with a corresponding deed restriction or similar instrument.

Contract Value: Not to exceed \$10,000.00 in miscellaneous real estate fees, such as closing costs.

Contract Period: From date of execution until Mitigation Bank Closeout as determined by the appropriate federal authorities (the Forest Preserves will assume long-term maintenance responsibilities thereafter).

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to Exceed \$10,000.00. After Mitigation Bank Closeout, the Forest Preserves expects to receive approximately \$260,000.00 via a fund established by HGS, LLC and held by

the Forest Preserves or a third-party fiduciary for the long-term management, maintenance, and stewardship of the mitigation site.

Accounts: Professional Services 51034.520830; Real Estate Capital Outlay 51006.560010; and all future Professional Services accounts

Contract Number(s): N/A

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

District(s): 6

Summary: HGS, LLC (“HGS”) is a subsidiary of Resource Environmental Solutions, which provides comprehensive ecological restoration and water resource solutions, serving public and private sector clients with full-delivery, land-based projects that build and sustain natural resiliency in ecosystems. HGS has rights to purchase an approximately (±) 71.7 acre parcel directly adjacent to Forest Preserves property located at Torrence Avenue and Sauk Trail Road near Sauk Village (the “Donation Parcel”). HGS seeks to develop a wetland mitigation bank utilizing all or a portion of this property together with approximately (±) 32.9 acres of Forest Preserves land, subject to the approval of the applicable federal agencies. Upon acquisition of the Donation Parcel and federal approval with respect to the mitigation bank, HGS will conduct ecological restoration of wetlands within the boundaries of the mitigation bank site, as approved by the Forest Preserves. This ecological restoration will benefit wildlife and restore native vegetation. HGS will also sell credits from the wetland mitigation bank to third parties.

Upon approval of the wetland mitigation bank plan, the Donation Parcel owned by HGS will then be donated to the Forest Preserves. Per federal regulations, the Forest Preserves will then be required to record a deed to the donated property that includes a declaration of a restrictive covenant, a deed restriction or a similar instrument restricting use of the property in accordance with the federally-approved Mitigation Banking Instrument and Plan. After Closeout of the Mitigation Bank, the Forest Preserves will then serve as the long-term steward of the mitigation site, which will include the Donation Parcel. The Donation Parcel is more fully described in the legal description included in related Board Item No. 25-0007. The acquisition of the Donation Parcel would advance the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

The area of the wetland mitigation bank is expected to total approximately (±) 104 acres, which will be restored by HGS at no direct cost to the Forest Preserves. Upon successful completion of all performance standards for a period of at least seven (7) years and the official Closeout of the Mitigation Bank, the Forest Preserves will assume long-term maintenance and stewardship responsibilities for the mitigation site with the support of a monetary fund established by HGS on behalf of the Forest Preserves and held by the Forest Preserves or a third-party fiduciary. If the federal authorities require a third-party fiduciary to hold these long-term maintenance funds per the approved Mitigation Plan, the Forest Preserves will bring the details of any such agreement before the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve 25-0006. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

[25-0004](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Law Enforcement

Request: Refer to Law Enforcement Committee

Report Title: Model Policing

Report Period: 7/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Summary: Report on the status of achieving the goal of a Model Forest Preserves Police Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Aguilar, to receive and filed 25-0004. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner McCaskill, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Quezada, Scott, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morita and Morrison (2)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne M. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'M' and 'T'.

Secretary

Journal # 25-0147

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