



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Camp Sullivan, 14630 Oak Park Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois

BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 10:00 AM

Issued On: 6/26/2025

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary of the Board.

25-0274

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**HONORING THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF EILEEN FIGEL**

WHEREAS, Ms. Eileen Figel has served as the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Interim General Superintendent since January 2024 and previously served as the Forest Preserves' Deputy General Superintendent since July 2014 and has led the nation's oldest and largest forest preserve district in building a culture of inclusivity and equality; and

WHEREAS, Eileen is a member of the American Planning Association and holds a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Bachelor of Arts in Management Science from the University of California San Diego. Prior to joining the Forest Preserves, Eileen served as the founding director for the Institute for Comprehensive Community Development, led an independent consulting practice, and served as former Mayor Daley's First Deputy Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, and as a municipal planner for the cities of Baltimore, Maryland, Long Beach, California and Highland Park, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Eileen has been deeply committed to ensuring that the Forest Preserves' infrastructure and culture is based on equity and inclusion, and under her leadership, ensured that programming, development, and initiatives contributed to creating a welcoming environment for all Cook County residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Eileen spearheaded the implementation of the 2014 Next Century Conservation Plan, an ambitious and visionary strategy that laid out a set of bold actions that positioned the Forest Preserves as a national leader in urban conservation and ensured the people of Cook County treasure and sustain this amazing resource then, now and in the future and guided the launch and formation of the Conservation and Policy Council, an advisory body of distinguished civic-minded experts who generously volunteer time to the mission, established by ordinance and charged with guiding the efforts to implement the Next Century Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, under her direction, the Council and Forest Preserves' staff undertook the creation and implementation of five position papers that outline a set of principles and recommendations on key issues facing the Forest Preserves today and in the future including land acquisition and disposition, nature-compatible recreation, scaling up volunteers, and racial equity, diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, her leadership and tireless advocacy contributed to build a community of support for the Forest Preserves, with 69% of Cook County voters approving a tax referendum to increase funding for nature and help the Forest Preserves maintain funding now and in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, under her steady and focused leadership, the Forest Preserves have been managed with excellence, efficiency, transparency, and sound financial practices, and have continued to advance ambitious goals including acquiring land for the benefit of Cook County's people and nature resulting in - at long last - surpassing 70,000 acres of public land and updating the Forest Preserves' Land Use Code to ensure that these public lands will forever be available for public use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Eileen has strongly supported the Forest Preserve Foundation, the Forest Preserves' philanthropic partner dedicated to protecting and restoring natural habits and to enhancing outdoor experiences for all people, to improving workplace culture by listening to and supporting staff in finding resolutions to challenging situation and resources for key Forest Preserves programs and initiatives. The Forest Preserve Foundation has become a stalwart supporter of the Forest Preserves' Conservation Corps program, has helped restore critical natural areas including Cap Sauers Holdings Nature Preserve, and has raised more than \$3,000,000 to support the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Eileen is a tireless advocate for staff and has improved workplace culture by supporting and guiding her staff through challenging situations, modeling behavior, values and attitudes she wished to see from Forest Preserves' staff, encouraging employees to explore new best practices that can lead to improvements and increased efficiencies, and shared her limitless energy, frankness, and commitment to excellence with all of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Eileen is enthusiastic about traveling, camping and other outdoor recreation activities including cycling, hiking, and walking her dogs, and shares her love for nature with her family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Eileen has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Forest Preserves and the people and nature of Cook County and she will be sorely missed for her leadership and work ethic, her commitment to inclusivity, and her sense of humor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the residents of Cook County do hereby extend thanks to Eileen Figel for her dedication, leadership and outstanding service to the Forest Preserves and wish her continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be provided to Eileen Figel in recognition of her significant contributions to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered, with the Secretary, to speak 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live at Camp Sullivan, 14630 Oak Park Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record. The public will be able to follow the proceedings for that day at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>, or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Conference Room F, Chicago, Illinois.

PRESIDENT[25-0242](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim 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.

25-0273

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

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT

Appointee(s): Adam D. Bianchi

Position: General Superintendent

Agency: Forest Preserves of Cook County

Effective date: July 25, 2025

Summary: Adam D. Bianchi has been nominated by President Toni Preckwinkle to serve as the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

With over 17 years of experience in public land and natural resource management through the United States Forest Service, Mr. Bianchi brings a strong history of leadership, innovation, and collaborative conservation to the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

Mr. Bianchi most recently served as District Ranger for the White River National Forest's Dillon Ranger District in Colorado, overseeing a complex 312,000-acre National Forest that receives nine million visitors annually. Managing a committed and dedicated workforce, his tenure was marked by strategic land-use planning, expansive community engagement, and successful partnerships that brought in over \$3 million in external funding in 2024 alone.

Throughout his career, Mr. Bianchi has led major projects integrating environmental sustainability with community needs. His leadership has been critical to the restoration of forests, diverse ecosystems, and wildlife habitats.

Mr. Bianchi's background in managing large-scale, multi-use landscapes and his commitment to inclusive, forward-thinking leadership aligns with the Forest Preserves' mission *"[t]o acquire, restore and manage lands for the purpose of protecting and preserving public open space with its natural wonders, significant prairies, forests, wetlands, rivers, streams, and other landscapes with all of its associated wildlife, in a natural state for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public now and in the future."*

With his prior experience at the United States Forest Service, Mr. Bianchi is uniquely positioned to work with the Forest Preserves' senior team, staff, and partners to protect and restore natural lands while expanding access to nature for all Cook County residents. Mr. Bianchi was selected as the next General

Superintendent of the Forest Preserves following a wide-ranging search. Former General Superintendent Arnold Randall was part of the interview team.

Mr. Bianchi holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Iowa State University and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the United States Forest Service Chief Honor Award and multiple Rocky Mountain Region Forester's Awards for leadership and public service.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

25-0263

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: 1/1/2025 - 6/30/2025

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

25-0032

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("IDOT") FOR DES PLAINES TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND TO PAY IDOT THE LOCAL SHARE OF COSTS

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the 'Forest Preserves') is seeking to construct a new pedestrian bridge over active Union Pacific Railroad tracks in Des Plaines, Illinois (the "Project") for the purpose of improving safety and connectivity in the Des Plaines River Trail in North Cook County; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning ("CMAP") approved a major federal grant through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality ("CMAQ")/local Transportation

Alternatives (TAP-L) program for 80% of unfunded construction and construction engineering costs, estimated at that time at \$3,530,000 and \$350,000.00, respectively, with such funds to be administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”); and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Forest Preserves became aware of Grade Crossing Protection Funds (“GCPF”) through the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”) and received a preliminary award of \$1,350,220.00 to cover 60% of the bridge structure portion of the Project, subject to agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad (hereafter “the Railroad”) to allow the Project and grant a ground and air rights easement; and

WHEREAS, after several years of detailed engineering, review by the Railroad and legal action before the ICC, the Railroad has tentatively agreed to grant a ground and air rights easement and allow the Project to proceed subject to reimbursement of the Railroad for certain costs described in an agreement that will require separate approval by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners (Board Item No. 25-0034); and

WHEREAS, in 2024, CMAP approved a request to increase federal CMAQ/TAP-L grant funds to \$4,493,000.00 for construction costs, including related utility relocation costs, railroad reimbursement and other related costs requiring separate board authorization (Board Items No. 25-0034 and 25-0266); and

WHEREAS, IDOT is responsible for the award of construction contracts and the Forest Preserves is now seeking approval for IDOT to post the Project for construction bids; and

WHEREAS, IDOT requires a resolution to reaffirm the Forest Preserves funding commitment to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and an Engineering Services Agreement to pay IDOT the local share of unfunded construction and construction engineering costs associated with the Project that will not be covered by other grants; and

WHEREAS, the current estimated cost of construction is \$8,362,366.00 but is subject to potential unanticipated increases that could require drawing upon the approved maximum CMAQ/TAP-L grant amount; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves is anticipating that the ICC will award a total of \$3,538,804.00 in GCPF (\$1,350,220.00 approved in the interim order and \$2,188,584.00 in requested supplemental funds) to cover 60% of eligible project costs once a final agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad is executed and a final ICC Order is issued; and

WHEREAS, after deduction of GCPF project costs (up to \$3,538,804.00 including anticipated supplemental funds), federal CMAQ/TAP-L funding is expected to cover up to 80% (\$3,858,850.00) of remaining project construction costs (\$4,823,562), leaving the Forest Preserves with responsibility for 11.5% (\$964,712.00) of the total estimated construction cost; and

WHEREAS, in the event the ICC does not award supplemental funds, 30.1% (\$2,519,146.00) of total estimated construction cost will be required as local match; and

WHEREAS, TAP-L funding was increased to cover up to 80% of Phase III construction engineering costs estimated at \$750,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves is requesting supplemental funding from the ICC to cover up to 60% of eligible construction engineering costs (up to \$750,000.00), once a final agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad is executed, and a final ICC Order is issued; and

WHEREAS, IDOT recommends that a qualified consulting engineering firm be employed to perform Phase III construction engineering services prior to posting the Project for bid to meet deadlines for use of the funds provided via the federal CMAQ/TAP-L grant; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves is recommending award of a construction engineering services contract separately (under Board Item No. 25-0033) to Bowman Consultant Group after issuing a Request for Qualifications "RFQ" for Phase III Engineering Services and based on qualifications with a total contract amount of \$690,563.00, 20% of which (\$138,112.60) would be Forest Preserves responsibility, but which could be reduced to \$51,344.00 after the pending final ICC approval of Grade Crossing Protection Funds; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a Joint Funding Agreement and Engineering Services Agreement with IDOT in connection with the Project, and to pay an amount not to exceed \$750,000.00 for Phase III Construction Engineering services subject to reimbursement of up to 80% by IDOT, and to pay the remaining balance of total estimated unfunded construction cost after approved Grade Crossing Protection Funds and CMAQ/TAP-L Funds, directly to IDOT in an amount not to exceed \$2,519,146.00 or 30.1% of the total estimated construction cost assuming the ICC does not approve supplemental GCP funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bowman Consultant Group, of Lisle, Illinois, be engaged to perform Phase III Engineering services in connection with the Project, and that the President of such Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to execute, on behalf of the Forest Preserves, an agreement by and between the Forest Preserves and Bowman for Phase III Engineering services (the "Engineering Services Agreement"); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are, or will be available, pending annual appropriations, in the Forest Preserves capital funding accounts to pay the local share of construction and Phase III Construction Engineering Services costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded

Construction and the Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation when executed in their respective final form, shall be submitted to IDOT for approval and final processing.

25-0227

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES

WHEREAS, the FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY (the “Forest Preserves”) has authorized various banks as depositories of its accounts; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Forest Preserves may also seek to open lines of credit or purchase appeal bonds from various insurers, bond companies or other institutions to cover the costs of judgments against the Forest Preserves in the event the Forest Preserves, upon Board approval, decides to appeal such judgments; and

WHEREAS, the various banks that serve as depositories of the Forest Preserves’ accounts require the manual or facsimile signature of duly elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves for the warrants, checks, drafts or other orders on these accounts; and

WHEREAS, the various insurers, bond companies and other institutions with whom the Forest Preserves may seek to open a line of credit, or from whom the Forest Preserves may seek to purchase an appeal bond, may require the manual or facsimile signatures of duly elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves in order to allow the Forest Preserves to establish lines of credit or purchase appeals bonds; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, based on changes in Forest Preserves personnel, it is necessary to advise banks, insurers, bond companies and other institutions of changes to the list of elected or appointed Officers of the Forest Preserves who are authorized to sign on behalf of the Forest Preserves in order to allow the Forest Preserves to issue checks, warrants or other orders with respect to Forest Preserves bank accounts; establish lines of credit; or purchase appeals bonds; and

WHEREAS, effective July 25, 2025, this Resolution shall supersede the prior Resolution, Board Item No. 24-0054, which was approved by the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners on January 23, 2024 regarding authorized signatures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes, effective on July 25, 2025, that the manual or facsimile signatures of any three of the following officers shall appear on all lines of credit opened; appeal bonds purchased; or

warrants, checks, drafts or other orders drawn on the bank accounts or other accounts of the Forest Preserves:

PRESIDENT, TONI PRECKWINKLE
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, ADAM BIANCHI
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DAMON HOWELL
COMPTROLLER, JAMES CUNNEA
TREASURER, DAMON HOWELL

provided, however, that one signature must be that of either the Treasurer or the Chief Financial Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the banks, insurers, bond companies, sureties or other institutions authorized as lenders, depositories, or sureties of the Forest Preserves shall be entitled to honor and to charge the Forest Preserves, for such lines of credit, appeal bonds, warrants, checks, drafts or other orders whenever such documents shall be signed manually or by facsimile by any three of the following officers of the Forest Preserves:

PRESIDENT, TONI PRECKWINKLE
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, ADAM BIANCHI
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DAMON HOWELL
COMPTROLLER, JAMES CUNNEA
TREASURER, DAMON HOWELL

provided, however, that one signature is that of the Treasurer or Chief Financial Officer.

25-0266

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS FOR RELOCATION OF UTILITIES AND PAY UTILITY RELOCATION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS COSTS RELATED TO DES PLAINES TRAIL BIKE/PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) is seeking to construct a new pedestrian bridge over active Union Pacific Railroad tracks and reconstruct adjacent portions of the Des Plaines River Trail in Des Plaines, Illinois (the “Project”) for the purpose of improving safety and connectivity on the northernmost portion of the Des Plaines River Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Project requires relocation of various utilities, including fiber optic line owned by Lumen Technologies, Inc. (“Lumen”) and electric line and facilities owned by Commonwealth Edison (“ComEd”)

and requires permits by various regulatory agencies; and

WHEREAS, the utility companies require agreements to pay for relocation costs which are estimated at \$65,216.72 for relocation of a Lumen fiber optic line and a similar amount for relocation of various ComEd lines, and the Project may require payment of other miscellaneous fees or costs to other utilities or agencies; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of all utility relocation and other miscellaneous fees or costs is estimated at a total of \$130,217.00, and federal grant funds described in a separate Resolution (Board Item No. 25-0032) are anticipated to reimburse 80% or \$104,174.00 of the estimated costs, with local Forest Preserves capital funding the balance; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves may be required to pay these miscellaneous costs directly to utility companies or regulatory agencies if those costs are not included in a construction contract expected to be awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its General Superintendent, to enter into agreements with various utility companies to pay relocation costs, and for the Forest Preserves to pay directly other miscellaneous costs associated with the Project, in a total amount not to exceed \$156,260.00 (\$130,217.00 plus 20% contingency) subject to IDOT reimbursement of up to \$104,174.00 (80% of estimated costs); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves’ Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are, or will be available, pending annual appropriations in the Forest Preserves capital funding accounts, to pay the total costs of utility relocation and other miscellaneous costs for the Project in an amount not to exceed \$156,260.00 (subject to reimbursement as described above).

25-0034

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED AGREEMENT

Vendor: Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, Nebraska

Request: Requesting authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into an agreement

Reason: The Forest Preserves is proposing to build a new pedestrian bridge over active Union Pacific Railroad (“UPRR”) tracks to fill in a gap in the Des Plaines River Trail and is seeking authorization to execute a Pedestrian Bridge Crossing Agreement (the “Agreement”) with the UPRR to authorize the Forest Preserves to: (1) construct and maintain a pedestrian bridge over UPRR tracks, (2) reimburse the UPRR for its project management, engineering review and construction observation costs related to the

new bridge, and (3) acquire a permanent easement for ground and air rights and pay the UPRR the agreed value for the easement.

The Agreement is also subject to review and approval by the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC”) under its regulatory powers. The Forest Preserves has received preliminary approval by the ICC. A future final ICC order is also anticipated to confirm the award of Grade Crossing Protection (“GCP”) funds for the project, including a pending request for supplemental GCP funding.

The UPRR estimates its costs for project management, engineering review, construction observation and other costs to be \$83,425.00, and the easement value not to exceed \$30,000.00. GCP funds are expected to cover 60% (\$50,055.00) of UPRR costs excluding easement costs, subject to ICC approval of a future final order.

Federal grant funds under the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (“CMAQ”)/Transportation Alternative Program-L (“TAP-L”) program are expected to cover up to 80% of the Forest Preserves’ match after GCP funds are applied and 80% of the UPRR easement cost and other miscellaneous costs under a separate Joint Funding Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) (see Board Item No. 25-0032).

Contract Period: Continuous from the date of execution of the Agreement until expiration of the life of the bridge subject to earlier termination in accordance with agreement terms; provided, however, term is permanent for Ground and Air Rights Easement.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$113,425.00 total estimated costs, including \$83,425.00 UPRR fees plus \$30,000.00 easement cost, of which the Forest Preserves is expected to be reimbursed \$100,751.00 (\$50,055.00 in GCP funds and \$50,696.00 in additional federal CMAQ/TAP-L funds through IDOT). The Forest Preserves would be responsible for 100% of any costs exceeding the total estimated amounts.

Account(s): Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830, 51036.520830; Real Estate Acquisition 51006.411460 and future Construction and Development accounts

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

The Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance is not applicable to this agreement.

District(s): 9

25-0033

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Bowman Consulting Group Ltd., Lisle, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Phase III engineering services for construction oversight relating to construction of a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad connecting the Des Plaines River Trail from Golf Road to Central Road

Contract Value: \$690,563.00

Contract Period: 9/1/2025 - 12/1/2027

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY2025 \$69,056.30, FY2026 \$552,450.40, FY2027 \$69,056.30 subject to grant reimbursement of 80% (\$552,450.40) or up to \$664,980.00 if supplemental GCP funding is approved.

Accounts: Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830, 51036.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000013936 issued under Project #19-80-67G-24E1 and Solicitation #23-80-010118

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

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

District(s): 9

Summary: Phase III engineering services are needed to oversee the Des Plaines River Trail Improvement Project between Golf Road and Central Road which includes a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad and realignment of the existing trail. A major federal grant was awarded in 2019 by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (“CMAQ”) through the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)/locally programmed Transportation Alternative Program (TAP-L) program that will reimburse the Forest Preserves for up to 80% of the total cost for these services. CMAQ/TAP-L funds would reimburse the Forest Preserves for up to \$600,000.00 or 80% of total estimated cost of \$750,000.00 submitted for CMAQ/TAP-L funding. The Forest Preserves would be responsible for a maximum of \$150,000.00 or 20% of the total estimated cost and 100% of any cost exceeding \$750,000.00. The Forest

Preserves intends to pay the required 20% local match from capital funds, which could be reduced after applying supplemental grant funds from the Interstate Commerce Commission (“ICC”) through the Grade Crossing Protection (“GCP”) Fund program or other Forest Preserves capital funds.

A preliminary request for up to 60% of eligible engineering project costs has been submitted to the ICC that may be approved after submission of an agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad (and the subject of Board Item No. 25-0034) to the ICC. If supplemental GCP Funds are approved, the Forest Preserves match would be reduced to \$85,020.00 and CMAQ/TAP-L grant reimbursement would also be reduced.

The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Qualifications for Phase III Engineering Services. Twelve (12) firms responded to a publicly advertised Request for Qualifications. Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. (“Bowman”) was selected based on qualifications.

In addition to a contract directly with the Vendor, IDOT requires that the Forest Preserves enter into a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction and the Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation. A Resolution authorizing execution of those agreements has been submitted separately (Board Item No. 25-0032).

25-0257

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: R.N.O.W., Inc., West Allis, Wisconsin

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Four (4) Loadmaster Electric Refuse Trucks

Contract Value: \$2,237,884.32

Contract Period: One-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$2,237,884.32

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266 and 51010.560266

Contract Number(s): #74000016356

Concurrences: The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of the referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 6/3/2025 to decommission fifty-three (53) Forest Preserves vehicles due to age, high mileage and condition and purchase twenty-six (26) new replacement vehicles. Authorization for this purchase involves four (4) of the twenty-six (26) approved vehicles. This purchase is anticipated to be partially funded via a United States Environmental Protection Agency grant in the amount of \$1,040,000.00. The remaining balance of \$1,197,884.32 will be paid by the Forest Preserves via existing referendum monies. This purchase request of four (4) additional Loadmaster electric refuse trucks is based on Sourcewell Contract #032824-CRN with Battle Motors, Inc. and fulfilled by authorized dealer R.N.O.W., Inc. The trucks are part of the refuse modernization program and will be assigned to the Department of Landscape Maintenance for field operations.

25-0261

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Sutton Ford, Inc., Matteson, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Purchase of fourteen (14) Ford F-series vehicles

Contract Value: \$761,424.00

Contract Period: One-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$761,424.00

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266

Contract Number(s): #74000016386

Concurrences: The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals. The vendor is a certified Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprise.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 6/3/2025 to decommission fifty-three (53) Forest Preserves vehicles due to age, high mileage, and condition and purchase twenty-six (26) new replacement vehicles. The authorization request for this purchase involves fourteen (14) of the twenty-six (26) approved vehicles. The units will be assigned as follows: nine (9) units to the Department of Resource Management; two (2) units to the Department of Facilities and Fleet; one (1) unit to the Department of Conservation and Experiential Learning; and two (2) units to the Department of Landscape Maintenance. This purchase request is based on Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) Request for Proposals/Contracts #221 and #225 with Sutton Ford, Inc.

Thirteen (13) of these units will align with Forest Preserves of Cook County sustainability goals with propane conversions taking place after purchase. The only proposed vehicle purchase that does not meet the needs of our vehicle sustainability goals is the purchase of one (1) F350 diesel pickup truck that will be used for hauling heavy paving equipment for Landscape Maintenance.

25-0262

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Sutton Ford, Inc., Matteson, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Purchase of eight (8) 2025 Ford Explorer Hybrid Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles

Contract Value: \$398,696.00

Contract Period: One-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$398,696.00

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 51009.560266

Contract Number(s): #74000016418

Concurrences: The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of the referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals. The vendor is a certified Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprise.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Facilities and Fleet received permission from the Vehicle Steering Committee on 6/3/2025 to decommission fifty-three (53) Forest Preserves vehicles due to age, high mileage, and condition and purchase twenty-six (26) new replacement vehicles. The authorization request for this purchase involves eight (8) of the twenty-six (26) approved vehicles and is based on State of Illinois Contract #22-416CMS-BOSS4-P-41049 with Sutton Ford, Inc. All eight (8) Ford Hybrid Explorers will be assigned to the Law Enforcement Department.

25-0269

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Resource Management

Vendor: Smits Farms, Inc., Chicago Heights, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Organic row crop farming at 1001 N. Glenwood Dyer Rd., Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Contract Value: N/A

Contract Period: 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026, with three (3) one-year extension options to be exercised at the

discretion of the General Superintendent or their designee

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Revenue generation of up to \$15,100.00 over four (4) years

Accounts: Corporate Land Use Fees 51001.411366 (revenue generating)

Contract Number(s): #74000016419 issued under Project #25RM 103-R

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

District(s): 5

Summary: The Forest Preserves has solicited a contract for row crop production at select sites which were historically used for agricultural purposes prior to acquisition by the Forest Preserves, and as such, do not exist in an ecologically natural state. Farmers will have use of the property for seeding one or more row crops including wheat, oats, soybeans, and/or other crops subject to the review and written approval of the Forest Preserves' Director of the Department of Resource Management. This practice allows the Forest Preserves to generate revenue, while at the same time preventing invasive plant species from overtaking fallow land. It is the Forest Preserves' intention to restore fallow land as capacity and funding allows, and these interim farming practices are a proven method to keep lands in a more manageable condition until a restoration project can take place, thereby reducing future restoration costs. The contract term for row crop farming is a period of one (1) year, with three (3) one-year mutual renewal options to be exercised by the General Superintendent or their designee, which allows the Forest Preserves the option to discontinue farming practices at our discretion in order to restore these lands to a natural condition.

Project #25RM 103 was originally issued under Solicitation #25-31-012374 but was rebid due to non-response. A total of two (2) responsive bids were ultimately received. Smits Farms, Inc. was the only vendor to bid on both parcels, eliminating supplemental costs associated with the management of the remaining field. Their proposal will result in a total potential revenue generation over the next four (4) years of \$15,100.00, or \$3,775.00 per year. These sites will be farmed with limited to no herbicide use, depending on the parcel.

Site	Acres	Revenue
Parcel A	20	\$4,000.00
Parcel B	37	\$11,100.00

25-0270

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Permits, Rentals and Concessions

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

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Keyless Entry System for Off Leash Dog Areas

Contract Value: \$125,000.00

Contract Period: 7/1/2025 - 6/30/2030

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$40,500.00, FY 2026 \$46,000.00, FY 2027 \$11,000.00, FY 2028 \$11,000.00, FY 2029 \$11,000.00, FY 2030 \$5,500.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520850

Contract Number(s): #74000016449

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

Sole Source contract with no MWBE participation goals.

District(s): 1, 6, 14

Summary: The Forest Preserves is seeking authorization to enter into this proposed contract on a sole source basis for the keyless entry system and associated equipment at the Beck Lake (Des Plaines) and Bremen Grove (Tinley Park) Off Leash Dog Areas. Given the customized nature of the system, the proprietary hardware and software, demonstrated vendor performance, compatibility with existing infrastructure, and long-term cost savings, a sole source agreement with SMG Security Holdings LLC is operationally cost-efficient and beneficial to patrons. SMG’s proprietary system integrates with Genetec software, enabling real-time access management and reporting. A prior installation at Miller Meadow has been successful, with over five hundred (500) registered users.

In 2023, the Permits, Rentals, and Concessions (PRC) Department issued RFP 23-40-009531 for a keyless entry system at Miller Meadow. Requirements included solar-powered operation, user code access, and real-time remote updates. Of two (2) respondents, only SMG Security Holdings LLC met all criteria. PRC now plans to expand the system to Beck Lake (Des Plaines) by October 1, 2025, and Bremen Grove (Tinley Park) by spring 2026. This expansion will support nearly three thousand (3,000)

users, enabling real-time monitoring and user management. Estimated costs are \$35,000.00 per site, with an \$11,000.00 service fee per year based on a \$200 service fee per location per month. These estimated monthly costs are higher than the provided quotes to allow the PRC Department to have a monetary contingency for this project. The Department of Permits, Rentals, and Concessions expect that this program will save the Forest Preserves \$15,000.00 annually on physical keys.

The agreement terms may include non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, particularly with respect to interest for late payment, disclaimers, limitations on liability, warranties, venue, governing law, termination, and indemnification, which may include an obligation to indemnify the vendor to the extent legally enforceable from certain third-party claims related to the vendor's service obligations under the agreement.

25-0199

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Stenstrom Petroleum Services Group, Rockford, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Fuel Station Services

Original Contract Period: 12/12/2023 - 7/31/2030

Proposed Contract Period Extension: N/A

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$175,000.00

Original Approval: 12/12/2023, \$175,000.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$500,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$50,000.00, FY 2026 \$100,000.00, FY 2027 \$100,000.00, FY 2028

\$100,000.00, FY 2029 \$100,000.00, FY 2030 \$50,000.00

Accounts: Professional Services 51001.520840

Contract Number(s): #74000013433 (agreement based on State of Illinois Contract #22-416CMS-BOSS4-P-39072)

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

Piggyback contract based on a State of Illinois (CMS) Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Forest Preserves has an operational need to maintain our onsite fuel filling locations across the district. These locations require services on both a monthly and annual basis. The Forest Preserves has piggybacked off the State of Illinois contract #22-416CMS-BOSS4-P-39072, which is valid through 7/31/2030, for these services. The current agreement was approved by the board on December 12, 2023 (Board Item No. 23-0569) with \$175,000.00 in available funding for the life of the agreement, but that funding amount is only enough to include on-call repairs for our fuel tanks and Fuelmaster system. The requested increase of \$500,000.00 will allow our fuel tanks to be regularly inspected to help ensure they are in full compliance with the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM) requirements.

The Forest Preserves' aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and underground storage tanks (USTs) are critical to the ongoing operations at its facilities, providing essential storage for fuels that support logistics, maintenance, and emergency response activities. Consolidating or removing these tanks would disrupt operations, increase transportation risks, and reduce site efficiency.

With this new funding, our fuel tank maintenance program will now include monthly walkthrough inspections of USTs as mandated by the Office of the State Fire Marshall (OSFM), annual testing of equipment such as line leak detectors, shear valves, and spill buckets, and monthly and annual inspections of ASTs following best management practices and manufacturer recommendations. All inspections and maintenance activities will be logged digitally and in hardcopy for audit readiness.

The Forest Preserves is therefore requesting this additional \$500,000.00 to fund a more comprehensive fuel tank maintenance program so that both UST and AST systems are kept to the highest standards, our organization mitigates environmental risk and helps ensure community safety and preserves operational readiness. The decision to continue using these storage systems is rooted in our commitment to sustainability, efficiency, and full regulatory compliance.

Maintaining the two (2) USTs and seventeen (17) ASTs is justified based on operational needs and a proactive safety and maintenance strategy. Continued adherence to OSFM guidance helps the Forest

Preserves operate safely, lawfully, and in an environmentally responsible manner.

25-0217

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Pacific Construction Services, LLC, Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction services to replace existing heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems at the Forest Preserves’ General Headquarters building located in River Forest.

Original Contract Period: 6/2/2023 - 7/1/2024; 7/2/2024 - 12/31/2024 (Administrative Extension); 1/1/2025 - 6/30/2025 (Administrative Extension)

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 7/1/2025 - 12/31/2025

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$2,543,699.09

Original Approval: 4/25/2023, \$2,355,882.00

Previous Increase(s): \$149,220.84 (Administrative Increase); \$38,596.25 (Board Item No. 24-0282)

This Increase Requested: \$81,348.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$81,348.00

Accounts: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105, 51010.560105, 51031.560105, 51032.560105, 51033.560105, 51034.560105, 51036.560105 and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000012184 issued under Project #21-80-44 and Solicitation #23-80-008949

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): 9

Summary: Contract #74000012184 issued under Project #21-80-44 consists of providing construction services at the Forest Preserves' General Headquarters building to replace existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. A time extension and contract increase are needed to allow for additional work to respond to a blown ComEd transformer. This scope of work is to replace an interior ComEd transformer that failed at this building in January 2025 and that could not be replaced in kind due to its location inside the building. A new exterior transformer pad will need to be provided along with re-worked secondary cable ahead of ComEd placement of a new transformer. The project was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 4/25/2023 (Board Item No. 23-0018).

25-0255

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: MYS, Incorporated, Palos Heights, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction contract for bridge repairs at various locations across the Forest Preserves.

Original Contract Period: 11/7/2024 - 12/6/2025

Proposed Contract Period Extension: N/A

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$1,282,358.10

Original Approval: 9/19/2024, \$1,282,358.10

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$258,973.12

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2025 \$258,973.12

Accounts: Land Improvements 51009.560019, 51033.560019, 51034.560019 and 51036.560019; and future Construction and Development funds

Contract Number(s): #74000014798 issued under Project 22-80-06-24C1R

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 Provisions via direct participation.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Amendment of this contract is needed to perform additional work at Chick Evans Golf Course and Erickson Woods. Additional deterioration on a bridge was discovered during original repairs that requires immediate attention. This item was originally approved on September 19, 2024 (Board Item No. 24-0294).

25-0264

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENTS

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Various Vendors in Pre-Qualified Pool for Construction Cost Estimating Services

<u>Contract No.</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>
#74000011110	The Concord Consulting Group of Illinois, Inc., Chicago, Illinois
#74000011109	GMA Construction, Chicago, Illinois
#74000011107	Project Controls Group Inc, St. Louis Missouri

#74000011108 Vistara Construction Services Inc., Chicago, Illinois

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend the Construction Cost Estimating Services contracts

Good(s) or Service(s): Construction Estimator Pool

Original Contract Period: 7/25/2022 - 7/24/2025

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 7/25/2025 - 7/24/2027

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: Not to Exceed a combined total of \$600,000.00 (\$150,000.00 for each vendor in pool)

Original Approval: 7/25/2022 \$600,000.00

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: N/A

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Using funds remaining on contracts for each vendor (FY 2025 \$50,000.00, FY 2026 \$50,000.00, FY 2027 \$50,000.00)

Accounts: Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51031.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830 and 51036.520830; and Future Construction and Development Funds

Contract Number(s): #74000011110, #74000011109, #74000011107 and #74000011108 for Project #22-80-08

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

The contract-specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for these contracts was set at zero.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: Four three-year contracts were issued to four vendors under RFQ #22-80-08 dated March

25, 2022, Solicitation #22-80-007697 for cost estimating services for Forest Preserves' capital projects on an as-needed basis, with a special focus on more complex building energy efficiency projects. Three (3) of eight (8) priority projects listed as priority projects in the 2022 RFQ have been completed and five are currently in design or about to start design. The RFQ stated that renewal options beyond three (3) years will be considered but will require approval by the Forest Preserves' Board of Commissioners. All four (4) vendors are willing to extend on the same terms in their existing contracts.

25-0086

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: 5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025

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

25-0265

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Report Period: FY 2023

Summary: The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a local government. The award is

given by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) upon its review of the Forest Preserves' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for FY 2023 (the most recent fiscal year evaluated by the GFOA).

The GFOA has awarded the Forest Preserves of Cook County the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for seventeen (17) consecutive years. In order to receive the certificate, a governmental body must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. The report must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and applicable legal requirement. Only four (4) Forest Preserve Districts in the entire State of Illinois received this certificate for FY 2023.

25-0268

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - May 2025

Report Period: 5/1/2025 - 5/31/2025

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of May 2025. Payments total \$102,507.77 for May 2025.

25-0271

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Additional ARPA funding

Report Period: 12/18/2024 - 12/31/2024

Summary: Per Board Item No. 24-0523, the Forest Preserves of Cook County hereby reports that in 2024 it received additional ARPA funding as sub-awarded from Cook County in the amount of \$114,000.00 for general maintenance and upgrades to public facilities relating to project covered by Beneficiary Agreement between the parties (Board Item No. 23-0308).

25-0260

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
7/1/2025-9/8/2025

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

Wednesday, 7/2; 7pm—8:30pm

Naturalist Night Out: Owls, Spears Woods, Willow Springs

Join us for a themed stroll under the World's Largest Urban Night Sky Place. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Wednesday, 7/2; 7:30pm—9:30pm

Jewels of the Night: Fireflies, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us for a presentation and nature walk and learn how to identify fireflies. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 7/5; 10:30am—11:30am

Benefits of Beavers, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

The beaver is the largest rodent in Illinois. Join us for a hike to the to the beaver dam on our slough while we discuss its adaptation. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Sunday, 7/6; 10am

Maps and Compass Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Maps and compass are essential tools. You can learn how to use these tools and practice on a walk. *Ages 10 and up. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Sunday, 7/6; 10:30am

Red, White and Blue Nature Walk, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Enjoy a guided walk and look for our nation's flag colors in nature. *Registration required. Please call*

(708)366-6530.

Sunday, 7/6; 3pm—4:30pm

Red, White, and Black, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join us for a walk to search for local woodpeckers and learn about their amazing traits. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Monday, 7/7; 7:30pm—9:30pm

Dark Night Rising, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join us for a 1-mile hike while using binoculars and technology to look at and listen for bat signals. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 7/10; 5pm—7pm

Wellness in Woods: Community Gardens, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Join us for this portion of the series as we learn about gardening and the incredible effect that plants can have on your well-being. *Registration required. This guided walk will be led by Wandering Paths Founder and Flower Farmer Navraaz Kaur Basati. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Thursday, 7/10; 5:30pm

Camping 101, Camp Bullfrog Lake, Willow Springs

Join us for a 1.5-hour workshop and learn about basic camping skills like setting up a tent, building a fire, dressing for the weather and more! *For more information, please visit the website.*

Friday, 7/11; 9am

Walk & Talk: Summer Nature Exploration, LaBagh Woods, Grove 3

For curious minds who want to know more about the Forest Preserves, these hikes will be led at a slower pace with frequent stopping and interpretation. *Registration required, please call 773-758-8899.*

Saturday, 7/12; 10am—3pm

Kids' Fest, Wampum Lake, Thornton

Get ready to embrace the beauty of summer, the great outdoors and the wonders of nature at Kids' Fest 2025! This exciting festival is the perfect way to celebrate the sun-soaked season with your family and friends by enjoying many activities like nature exploration, crafts and archery. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

Thursday, 7/17; 11am—2pm

Insect Fest, Cummings Square, River Forest

Enjoy this outdoor festival of insects. You can go on a bug hunt, experience an insect petting zoo, explore bugs through yoga and music and more! *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Thursday, 7/17; 8pm

Sunset Night Hike, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Enjoy a guided walk and learn about the wildlife that begins their day as the sun begins to set.

Registration required. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.

Saturday, 7/19; 8am

Morning Cycle, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights

Enjoy a 16-miles bike ride on the Thorn Creek trail. *This program is for experienced cyclists. Participants must bring their own bike and helmet.*

Saturday, 7/19; 1:30pm

GPS Mystery Adventure, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

A murder most “fowl” has occurred in our woods! You can solve the case by using handheld GPS units to locate hidden clues and discover who did in the bird. *Ages 10 and up. Ages 10-17 with an adult. All instruction and materials will be provided. For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 7/19; 7pm—9pm

Nature at Night: Astronomy Night, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland

Join us for evening explorations at the campground! *Registration required. This is a bilingual program and will be offered in English and Spanish. Please call (708) 868-0606 or visit the website.*

Tuesday, 7/22 through Thursday, 7/24; 9:30am—2:30pm

Field Science Workshop: Biodiversity, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

This workshop includes hands-on field investigations leading to engaging discussions. You can earn Continuing Professional Development Units also known as CPDUs. *Registration required. The cost is \$75 per person. For more information, please call (630)257-2045 or visit the website.*

Thursday, 7/24; 2pm—3:30pm

Teen Exploration Day: Clean Up and Explore, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

You can learn service hours and help keep the Forest Preserves clean! *Registration required. Ages 13-17. Litter pick-up supplies will be available for check out. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Friday, 7/25; 10am—12pm

Fishing for Community, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for a morning of fishing on Trailside’s pond. This bilingual event offers a unique opportunity to learn the basics of fishing from our experts, build connections with others and enjoy the beauty of nature together in a welcoming atmosphere. *All instructions and equipment will be provided. This is a bilingual program and will be offered in English and Spanish. For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

Friday, 7/25; 1pm

Insect Inquiry: Dragonflies, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us on the last Friday of each month and learn about a highlighted insect. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 7/26; 10am—12:30pm

Indigenous Games and Activities, Thatcher Woods, River Forest

Join the American Indian Center of Chicago for traditional Indigenous games and physical activities.

Saturday, 7/26; 10am—1pm

The Freedom Trail Bus and Walking Tour, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Join a narrated bus tour and guided walk to learn about the Freedom Seekers who came through the Calumet region. *Registration required. This event is presented with Midwest Underground Railroad Network. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 7/26; 11am—3pm

Campus Open House, Camp Shabbona, South Holland

Celebrate summer and explore what Sand Ridge has to offer with guided walks, artmaking and games. *For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

Wednesday, 7/30; 10am—12pm

Teen Exploration Day: Pond Dipping Saganashkee Slough Boat Launch, Willow Springs

Teens and families will learn about freshwater ecology using dipping nets and water quality testing.

Saturday, 8/2; 10am—12pm

Green Lake Open Fishing Clinic, Green Lake Family Aquatic Center, Calumet City

Join us as we learn to fish with instructions. *Registration required Fishing license is required for participants that are 16 and up. Equipment will be provided. This program will have 30-minute time slots, and it is presented with Get Hooked LLC. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 8/2; 10am—1pm

Back-to-School Community Adventure Day, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Bring the family and celebrate with the community! You can start the school year with give-a-ways, school supply distribution, activities, food and more! *Donations are limited. This event is presented with ICNA Chicago, Niles-Maine Library, Hive Center for the Book Arts, and many others. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Sunday, 8/3; 1pm—3pm

From Oceans to Lakes to Rivers: Maintaining Knowledge Through Forced Migrations, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Explore the enduring legacy of African American Traditional Ecological Knowledge also known as TEK. You can learn about its role in survival, adaptation, and environmental stewardship across generations through storytelling, discussions, and interactive learning. *This program is presented by the Mbwakawen Harambee Collective. For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

Monday, 8/4 through Friday, 8/8; 8:30am—12:30pm

Environmental Education Camp, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Campers will learn about local ecology through games, crafts and outdoor activities. *Registration required. Ages 6-13. The cost is \$25 per child. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Wednesday, 8/6; 5pm—7pm

An Evening with Hummingbirds, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Drop-in and enjoy watching hummingbirds.

Wednesday, 8/6; 7pm—8:30pm

Naturalist Night Out: Senses, Spears Woods, Willow Springs

Join us for a themed stroll under the World's Largest Urban Night Sky Place. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 8/9; 9am

Paddle the Upper Des Plaines River, Allison Woods, Northbrook

Discover this magnificent watershed on over 5-mile canoe ride. *Registration required. Equipment will be provided. Ages 12 and up. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 8/9; 7pm—9pm

Nature at Night: Astronomy, Camp Shabbona, South Holland

Join us for evening explorations at the campground! *Registration required. This is a bilingual program and will be offered in English and Spanish. Please call (708) 868-0606 or visit the website.*

Tuesday, 8/12; 10am—12pm

Community Litter Cleanup, Schiller Woods-East, Chicago

Join us for a litter clean up and give back to the community. *This event will be held at Grove 13. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Thursday, 8/14; 12pm—2pm

Nature Discovery Day, Swallow Cliff Woods-North, Palos Park

Drop-in for games, disc golf, art making, fish casting lessons and more.

Thursday, 8/14; 5pm—7pm

Wellness in Woods: Recycled Gardens, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Join us for this portion of the series as we learn about gardening and the incredible effect that plants can have on your well-being. *Registration required. This guided walk will be led by Wandering Paths Founder and Flower Farmer Navraaz Kaur Basati. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 8/16 through Wednesday, 8/20; 9am—5pm

Mesoamerican Jewels of the Sky, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

A walking exhibition showcasing the cultural importance of hummingbirds in Mesoamerica and beyond. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 8/16; 9am—2pm

Hummingbird Fest, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us for activities, viewing, and demos of how the birds are banded for tracking and research purposes.

Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.

Saturday, 8/16; 10am—12pm

Watercolor Workshop, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Unleash your creative energy with a unique painting workshop! We will be creating paints from different native berries and then creating art on seed paper. *Registration required. This program is led by Wandering Paths Founder, Navraaz Kaur Basati. Please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 8/16 through Sunday, 8/17; 5:30pm

Camping 101-Overnight, Camp Reinberg, Palatine

Part workshop, part campout! You can learn about camping skills then spend the night. *Registration required. The cost is \$50 per family of 6. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 8/23; 10am—1pm

Underground Railroad Southland Chicago Bus Tour, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

You can visit the Underground Railroad sites and locations and learn about their significance for Black history in Chicago Southland. *Registration required. This event is presented with Midwest Underground Railroad Network. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 8/23; 1pm

Adult Wellness Walk in Thatcher Woods, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Join us for a for a mindful and calming forest walk in the woods. *Registration required. This program is led by Roberta Jannsen from the University of Illinois Extension. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 8/23; 6pm—11pm

Busse Night Ride, Busse Lake Boating Center, Elk Grove Village

Ride the trail at sunset, twilight or in the dark! The ticket will include live music, bonfires, refreshments and more. *Registration required. For more information, please visit the website.*

Wednesday, 8/27; 9:30am—11:30am

Healing Trees and Sound Bath, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Experience the health benefits of being in nature with forest meditation and sound bathing. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. This program is led by certified forest therapy guides, Gayle Byck, of In Tune with Nature and Kim Eisendrath of Fascia and Function. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Wednesday, 8/27; 7pm—9pm

Night of Nature Play, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Experience nature at night through open play, star gazing and s'mores. *This program will be held at Grove 3. For more information, please call (224)763-4317.*

Friday, 8/27; 1pm

Insect Inquiry: Wasps, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us on the last Friday of each month and learn about a highlighted insect. *Registration required.*

Please call (630)257-2045.

Saturday, 8/30; 9am—2pm

Kayak the Salt Creek Water Trail, Bemis Woods-North, Oakbrook

Enjoy kayaking 8 miles on Salt Creek from Bemis Woods to Plank Road Meadow. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Equipment and a shuttle van will be provided. Please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 8/30; 10am—1pm

View Finder, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Drop-in and bring a phone or camera to learn about our natural areas through an informational photography scavenger hunt. *Registration required. Please call (708) 839-6897.*

Thursday, 9/4; 10am—11:30m

Wildflowers in the Prairie, Carl R. Hansen Woods, Hoffman Estates

Join us for a 2-mile nature walk! You can learn about the natural history and wildflowers of Shoe Factory Road Prairie. *Registration required. Participants must bring sun protection and water. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 9/5; 6pm—8pm

Skate Party, Dan Ryan Woods, Chicago

Come out and bring your best skating skills and routines or just roll along to the music. *This event will be held at Grove 15. For more information, please visit the website.*

Saturday, 9/6; 11am—3pm

Art in Nature Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for our largest event of the year! There will be art activities for both kids and adults. *For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

Saturday, 9/6; 1pm

Singing with Cicadas, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Cicadas serenade us with song in the late summer. You can learn about their songs on a short, guided hike. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 9/6; 6:30pm—10pm

Full Moon Paddle, Tower Road Boat Launch, Northfield

Enjoy an exclusive after-hours sunset and moonlit paddle through the Skokie Lagoons. *Registration required. For more information, please visit the website.*

Sunday, 9/7; 10am

Herbal Tea Party, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

It's teatime! You can learn about native plants that you can grow in the garden, then sample different infused teas made from them. *Registration required. This program is led by certified forest therapy*

guides, Gayle Byck of In Tune with Nature and Kim Eisendrath of Fascia and Function. Please call (847)824-8360.

Sunday, 9/7; 12pm–3pm

Migrating Monarchs, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest

Celebrate the annual Monarch Butterfly migration with environmental and cultural displays, activities, music and crafts. *For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

Sunday, 9/7; 1pm

Herbal Tea Party, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

It's teatime! You can learn about native plants that you can grow in the garden, then sample different infused teas made from them. *Registration required. This program is led by certified forest therapy guides, Gayle Byck of In Tune with Nature and Kim Eisendrath of Fascia and Function. Please call (847)824-8360.*

Monday, 9/8; 8pm

Nocturnal Photography, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Enjoy the glow of moonlight and learn about the fundamentals of capturing digital night-time photos using a camera or smartphone. *Registration required. Ages 13 and up. Please call (708)839-6897.*

COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

**LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2025**

25-0196 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT Amendment to Ethics Ordinance

25-0256 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT General Superintendent Appointment

**RULES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2025**

25-0289 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS Regular meeting held on 6/10/2025

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2025**

25-0214 PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION Pacific Construction Services, LLC, primary place of business Chicago, Illinois, for exterior renovations and HVAC upgrades at Camp Reinberg in Palatine, Illinois

25-0218 PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION Great Lakes Landscape Company, primary place of business Bartlett, Illinois, for Maywood Grove Canoe and Kayak Launch and Pavement Improvements in Maywood, Illinois

25-0219 PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION Matthew Paving, Inc., primary place of business Oak Lawn, Illinois, for pavement, dam & electric service repairs at various locations, primarily in Southern Cook County

25-0267 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION) Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 7/1/2025

25-0194 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION) Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 7/1/2025

25-0213 PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT Fee Schedule

25-0092 REPORT Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures; Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 5/31/2025

25-0211 REPORT Report Title: 2024 Fee Waiver and Discount Report; Report Period: 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

**ZOOLOGICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2025**

25-0197 PROPOSED INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT AMENDMENT Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Illinois, Maintenance and operation of a zoological park on lands of the Forest Preserves, commonly known as the Brookfield Zoo Chicago

25-0258 RESOLUTION Declaring the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Brookfield Zoo Chicago

**REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 1, 2025**

25-0221 PROPOSED ORDINANCE Create a Forest Preserve Near Cermak Woods

25-0222 PROPOSED PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE 3850 Columbus LLC (Owner of Record), 3850 Columbus Blvd, Unincorporated Riverside Township, Cook County, Illinois
