



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

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

Consent Agenda

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 10:00 AM

CONSENT CALENDAR

Pursuant to 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 Post Board Action Agenda and Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Clerk of the Board.

[20-0004](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S DEER GROVE WEST WETLAND AND WOODLAND NATURE PRESERVE FOR RECEIVING A CHICAGO WILDERNESS EXCELLENCE IN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AWARD, AND THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY'S CONSERVATION CORPS AND *FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION* FOR EACH RECEIVING A CHICAGO WILDERNESS FORCE OF NATURE AWARD

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2019, the Forest Preserves of Cook County's Deer Grove West Wetland and Woodland Nature Preserve was honored with a Platinum Accreditation, the highest accreditation possible, from the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program and the Forest Preserves' Conservation Corps and the publication *Flora of the Chicago Region* by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha were both honored with a Chicago Wilderness George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award at a ceremony at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program recognizes the organizations managing the largest and highest-quality natural areas in the Chicago region and highlights projects that set an example of best practices in natural resource management and ecological restoration; and

WHEREAS, the 240-acre project area that received Platinum Accreditation is part of the 1,950-acre Deer Grove West Wetland and Woodland Nature Preserve located in Palatine, Illinois that supports savanna, dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, sedge meadow and wetland communities that collectively provide habitat for hundreds of native plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, Deer Grove Natural Areas Volunteers began restoration work at the site over 20 years ago, and in 2015 the Forest Preserves and Openlands expanded on this work through O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account funding to remove invasive species, maintain the ecological health of existing habitat and restore hydrology to the site's wetland habitat; and

WHEREAS, today Deer Grove West Wetland and Woodland Nature Preserve is one of our region's best examples of places that benefit both wildlife and people; and

WHEREAS, the George B. Rabb Force of Nature Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose conservation, restoration, advocacy or educational activities in the region are inspirational examples for others; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps was developed to mobilize people to restore nature to health, and to train the next generation of conservation leaders and forest preserve advocates by providing youth and adults with paid, hands-on restoration experiences on the Forest Preserves' nearly 70,000 acres of public land; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps is coordinated in partnership with the Friends of the Forest Preserves, Student Conservation Association, Greencorps Chicago, and Audubon Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the Conservation Corps is a Force of Nature because it strives to break down geographic and racial barriers by creating a network where people of all backgrounds work together for a common cause and ensures that participants gain an understanding of local ecology and are empowered to become nature ambassadors within their communities and among their peers; and

WHEREAS, *Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis* by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha is the latest edition of Plants of the Chicago Region, a compendium of the Chicago region's vascular flora first authored by Floyd Swink in 1969; and

WHEREAS, this completely revised edition breaks new ground by documenting the relationship between flora and fauna, describing the habitats in which plants and their ecological counterparts occur, and noting the impacts of climate change and consequent habitat degradation; and

WHEREAS, few other regions within the United States have such a thorough resource available to them and the Chicago Wilderness area is fortunate to have such a guide to the natural world; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President; and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners thank and congratulate the winners of both the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration Award and George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award and thank them for their commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the awardees as a token of appreciation for their service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.

[20-0013](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION**THANKING CENTRAL STATES SER, JOBS FOR PROGRESS INC. AND ENRIQUE ALVAREZ, LEAD LEARNING FACILITATOR, FOR CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATURE THROUGH THE CAMPING LEADERSHIP IMMERSION COURSE**

WHEREAS, Central States SER, Jobs for Progress Inc. (SER) is a non-profit dedicated to designing and delivering services to improve the quality of people's lives and advance economic stability and growth among youth, adults and businesses in communities across Illinois; and

WHEREAS, SER runs the PODER (Positive Outcomes Delivered through Education and Respect) Afterschool Program, a 21st Century Community Learning Center that promotes academic and social enrichment to students in low-income Title I schools with Mr. Enrique Alvarez as the Lead Learning Facilitator for PODER in the Little Village Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvarez immigrated to the United States from Mexico when he was nine and was a DACA recipient when he completed his bachelor's degree in Business Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvarez focused his career on community work when he began volunteering with the Pilsen Neighbors Community Council and, in 2014, began working at SER and with the PODER program where he currently coordinates the PODER program at Ruiz Elementary School, Chicago working to provide a safe space for young people afterschool, assisting with homework, and finding a variety of activities - STEM, team building, community work-for youth participation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvarez learned about the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the Camping Leadership Immersion Course (CLIC); and took the CLIC training himself in May of 2017; and

WHEREAS, since then Mr. Alvarez has brought over 80 young people from the PODER program camping at Camp Sullivan, in Oak Forest, through four CLIC camping trips, concentrated on camping, hiking, team building, and other activities with youths; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvarez is dedicated to the CLIC program and understands the importance of having youth spend time in the outdoors as they have nature-related experiences in the Forest Preserves; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Alvarez has been an excellent ambassador for the CLIC program by sharing his experiences with colleagues and helping them facilitate their own CLIC trips to the Forest Preserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Toni Preckwinkle, President along with the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners, do hereby thank Central States SER and Mr.

Enrique Alvarez for their commitment to using nature as a tool to provide safe and supportive services to the young people in the PODER program and their dedication to improving the quality of life for their community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Central States SER, Jobs for Progress, Inc. and Mr. Enrique Alvarez in thanks for their work with the Forest Preserves of Cook County and their positive impact on the lives of young people.