



Forest Preserves of Cook County Conservation & Policy Council Meeting January 30, 2025 ▪ 9:00 am (site tour) ▪ 10 am to noon (meeting)

The tour of Dan Ryan Woods begins at 9:00 am. Meet at Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion.

Meeting will be held from 10 am to noon at the Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion at

[S Western Ave & W 87th St - Google Maps](#)

Public Comments. Members of the public who wish to testify must register at least 24 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting. Register by sending your name and organization (if applicable) to Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov. Written-only comments provided 24 hours prior to the start of the Council meeting will be made part of the meeting record and available to all Council members. Anyone wishing to submit written public comments should send comments via email to Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov.

Accommodations. The meeting will be held inside the Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion; this is an accessible building. To request an accessible tour of the grounds, live-captioning or other accommodations, please send an email to Sharon.Williams3@cookcountyil.gov at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Next Century Conservation Plan Vision

The people of Cook County will celebrate and nurture our thriving woodlands, prairies and waters as world-class treasures that sustain our great metropolis.

A G E N D A

9:00 am *Please join us for a pre-meeting walk and talk with the Forest Preserves' Conservation & Experiential Programming team to learn about a partnership with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Our staff is utilizing the CSO's 2024-25 theme "Community Pride—Cooperation, Communication and Conviction" teacher training program to inspire teachers and students to form strong relationships to nature and the preserves.*

We will meet at the Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion and then take a walk around Dan Ryan Woods. Please dress for the weather.

10:00 am **1.** Welcome (Alan Bell, Chairperson, Conservation & Policy Council)

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Nature Spotlight (Iza Redlinski, Seed Amplification Initiative)

10:10 am **4.** Approval of Minutes (See Attachment 1)

5. Public Comments

- 10:15 am **6.** Chairman's report
- a. Welcome Kim Ruffin and Alaka Wali (See Attachment 2)
 - b. Transition of officers
 - c. Council Representation at 2025 Board Meetings (See Attachment 3) (pass around)
 - d. 2025 priority topics (See Attachment 4)
- 7.** Vote for Chair and Vice Chair; Remarks
- 10:30 am **8.** Discussion with Interim General Superintendent Eileen Figel
- a. 70,000-acre milestone
 - b. Southeast Cook County Successes
 - c. American Humane Certification
 - d. Staffing and Other Updates
- 10:40 am **9.** Initiatives to Celebrate African American History (Jacqui Ulrich)
- 11:00 am **10.** Engaging Community Colleges and Higher Ed (Ryen & Hank)
- 11:20 am *Break*
- 11:30 am **11.** Engaging Native Americans Update (Megan)
- 11:50 am **12.** Updates from Strategic Partners
- 12:00 pm **13.** Adjourn

Attachments

1. Minutes for Meeting of 8.29.24
2. Bios for Dr. Kim Ruffin and Alaka Wali
3. Council Representation at 2025 Board Meetings
4. 2025 Council Priorities
5. Chicago Botanic Garden Updates
6. Recent Media Highlights (Provided as a separate document.)