



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

**Environmental and Sustainability Committee**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**10:15 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE**

**There will be a meeting of the committee or subcommittee of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners at the date, time and location listed above.**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a virtual public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, email address, phone number, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized virtual public speakers shall be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. 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 be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, 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.

[21-0116](#)

**Presented by:** ARNOLD RANDALL, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

**Request:** Refer to Environmental and Sustainability Committee

**Report Title:** Restoration Status of Next Century Conservation Plan/Natural and Cultural Resources

Master Plan Identified Priorities

**Report Period:** 2015-2020

**Summary:** This document presents a five (5) year status report on ecological restoration achieved between the years of 2015-2020 in pursuit of the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) Next Century Conservation Plan (“NCCP”) goal of restoring 30,000 acres to ecological health by 2040.

The report includes introductory and background information on the Forest Preserves’ approach to meeting its land management goals, a set of maps that shows where important work has been accomplished, and descriptions of the preserves prioritized for restoration. These 30,000 acres are comprised of fifteen (15) priority landscapes, seven (7) Illinois nature preserves, and an additional set of thirty-eight (38) priority stewardship sites identified and ranked through the Forest Preserves’ Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan.

In the initial five (5) years since the NCCP’s debut in 2014, the Forest Preserves have dramatically expanded the number of acres under restoration from 5,800 to 12,200 acres, which equates to 40% of our priority lands under restoration. At our current pace and with appropriate funding, it is anticipated that our 30,000-acre NCCP goal can be achieved by 2035.

The work that has been achieved to-date is substantial and is critical to re-establishing healthy ecosystems for the benefit of the natural communities, plant and animal species, clean water, and long-term sustainability of our region.

**Legislative History :** 1/26/21 - FPD Board of Commissioners - refer to the Environmental and Sustaina



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Secretary

Chairman: Degnen

Vice-Chairman: Deer

Members: Britton, Lowry, Miller, K. Morrison, Silvestri